

STARS AND STRIPES

Tuesday, January 21, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

American killed in Kuwait ambush

By CHRIS TOMLINSON

The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — A gunman opened fire on an SUV carrying two American civilians near a U.S. military camp Tuesday, killing one and wounding the other in what the U.S. Embassy called a terrorist attack.

The men, contractors working for the U.S. military, were the first civilians to come under fire in recent attacks on Americans in Kuwait.

Their four-wheel drive Toyota was ambushed and riddled with bullets at a stoplight near Camp Doha, a military installation serving as a base for 17,000 troops in this oil-rich Gulf nation, where 8,000 American civilians also live.

Kuwait, critical to any U.S. war against neighboring Iraq, generally welcomes Americans out of lingering gratitude for the U.S.-led coalition that expelled Iraqi invaders in the 1991 Gulf War. The pro-American sentiment here is not universal, though, and other attacks in recent months killed one U.S. soldier and wounded three.

The U.S. Embassy identified the man killed as Michael Rene Pouliot, 46, of San Diego. Pouliot was an employee of the San Diego-based software development company Tapestry Solutions, which specializes in military modeling and simulation training tools.

The wounded man's identity was being withheld until his relatives are notified.

In Washington, the White House said U.S. authorities were working with Kuwaiti investigators to determine who carried out the attack.

"The president's heart goes out to the families affected by this attack," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. "It's a reminder of the dangers and risks servicemen and women face every day in service to our country."

No group claimed responsibility for the attack, which U.S. and Kuwaiti officials said they believed was carried out by a single gunman firing a Kalashnikov assault rifle from behind roadside bushes. The attacker then fled. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, cautioned that an investigation had not yet determined the full circumstances.

"We condemn this terrorist incident, which has tragically cost the life of an innocent American citizen," U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Richard Jones said in a statement.

A Kuwaiti security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, agreed with the U.S. assessment of the shooting as a terrorist act.

The wounded man was in stable condition after surgery at Kuwait City's Al-Razi hospital, a hospital official said on condition of anonymity. Doctors including a heart surgeon removed bullets from the man's body — two from his chest. The man also had fractures in his right arm and thigh.

See ATTACK on Page 2



PHILIP A. MCDANIEL/U.S. Navy

Defense officials said Tuesday that Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is likely to order two more carriers — the USS Abraham Lincoln, shown here in October, and the USS Theodore Roosevelt — to the Persian Gulf region.

Gulf buildup accelerates

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army is sending its most modern combat division to the Persian Gulf region and the Navy is dispatching two aircraft carriers to join two others already within striking distance of Iraq, officials said Tuesday.

The Army's 4th Infantry Division, equipped with tanks, attack helicopters and artillery to defeat armored forces, is heading a group of 37,000 soldiers ordered to reposition in the Persian Gulf region. Their equipment will be shipped first, with the soldiers to go when final basing arrangements are worked out, officials said.

The Army announced Monday that Task Force Ironhorse will join tens of thousands of other American forces that have been assembling in preparation for possible war against Iraq.

On Tuesday, defense officials speaking on condition of anonymity said Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had decided to order two more aircraft carriers to the Gulf region. They will be the USS Abraham Lincoln, which has been in Perth, Australia, for repairs following a six-month tour in the Gulf region, and probably the USS Theodore Roosevelt, which is currently training off the U.S. East Coast. Rumsfeld also is considering sending one or two more carriers to the region, for a possible total of six.

At U.S. Atlantic Fleet headquarters in Norfolk, Va., a spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. Dave Werner, said Tuesday that the fleet commander, Adm. Robert Natter, had received a Pentagon order to deploy an additional carrier battle group but had not yet decided whether it would be the Roosevelt or the USS George Washington.

See BUILDUP on Page 3

More deployments

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — An additional 300 Air Force members and fighter aircraft from the 52nd Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem Air Base have received deployment orders for the Persian Gulf region.

Base officials won't disclose the troops' exact destination and will say only that the deployment is in support of the global war on terrorism and to prepare for any future contingencies.

U.S. patrols attacked

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Assaults fired on two U.S. Army patrols in central Afghanistan, a U.S. military spokesman said Tuesday. No injuries were reported.

Both attacks took place Monday in the central province of Uruzgan.

One special forces patrol came under small-arms fire near the town of Deh Rawood. The other patrol was attacked a few miles east of the hills above Tarin Kot. In both cases, the assailants fled, according to Army spokesman Col. Roger King.

Deh Rawood was the site of a July 1 attack by U.S. aircraft on an Afghan wedding party that killed about 30 people. The U.S. military said it had come under fire from the ground, but no anti-aircraft weapons were found. High-ranking Taliban are believed to be hiding in the area.

Driving ban lifted

KABUL, Afghanistan — After a 10-year ban, Afghan women drivers are about to be licensed to hit the country's roads again, officials said Monday.

Thirty women from the Women Affairs Ministry have just completed a four-month driving class and are expected to get their licenses Saturday — seen as a step forward for women's rights since the defeat of the hardline Taliban regime late last year.

From staff and wire reports

News tracker: What's new with old news

States

Commuter plane crashes: Flying too close to the known limits for a plane's weight and balance can have catastrophic consequences for a commuter aircraft — as the crash that killed 21 people in Charlotte earlier this month may very well have shown.

The tragedy has focused attention on how the industry calculates the weight of its passengers and cargo. And it has raised questions about whether that method is realistic in this land of expanding waistlines.

Mary Schiavo, a former inspector general for the U.S. Transportation Department, said calculating an aircraft's weight and center of gravity is so crucial that it is one of the first things prospective pilots learn to do in flight school.

Malvo trial: A judge Tuesday dismissed efforts by the guardian of sniper suspect (John) Lee Boyd Malvo to obtain police documents about the deadly shooting spree in October.

The guardian, Todd Petit, argued that a provision in juvenile law gave him the right to seek a wide range of records from police and other agencies that had documents about Malvo.

Petit and Malvo's defense lawyers have been trying to pry information from authorities because they say Virginia's trial rules severely limit the information available to them. Prosecutors argued that the information was being sought prematurely before the trial.

Space shuttle mission: A dearth of dust storms had space shuttle Columbia's astronauts aiming their cameras instead at plumes of pollution and thunderstorms in an Israeli atmospheric study.

A pair of cameras aboard Columbia have captured video images of an elf — a luminous red, bagel-shaped, electrical phenomenon that occurs above a thunderstorm in less than a millisecond, said Yoav Yair, an atmospheric scientist at the Open University of Israel in Tel Aviv.

From the elves, a phenomenon discovered in 1994, the scientists hope to learn more about the mechanics that connect thunderstorms to the ionosphere above. Such knowledge ultimately could have major applications for spacecraft, Yair said.

World

Palestinian shops destroyed: In the biggest demolition in the West Bank in years, Israel razed 62 shops and market stalls in a Palestinian village Tues-

day, as troops clashed with protesters, residents said.

Seven bulldozers, guarded by some 300 troops, began tearing down shops in the village of Nazlat Issa early Tuesday. By midmorning, 62 shops were demolished, the mayor said.

Israel says the shops were built illegally. The mayor of the village accused Israel of waging war on the Palestinian economy.

The village is on the edge of the West Bank, close to Israel.

War crimes fugitives: The U.S. war crimes envoy warned Serbian leaders Tuesday that they risk losing U.S. financial and other support if they don't arrest and hand over key fugitives wanted by the U.N. tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

U.S. Ambassador Pierre-Richard Prosper pressed for the arrests of the former Bosnian Serb military commander, Gen. Ratko Mladic, and two former Yugoslav army officers, Maj. Veselin Slijivancanin and Col. Miroslav Radic. All three are indicted by The Hague court for alleged war crimes during the Bosnian and Croatian wars.

Carter's Venezuelan proposal: Former President Carter said Tuesday he drafted two proposals for leading Venezuela toward elections and ending a deadly 51-day-old strike intended to force President Hugo Chavez from office.

One proposal would amend Venezuela's constitution to allow for early general elections and to cut terms in office, Carter said.

The amendment would have to be approved by Congress and voters.

Carter's second proposal calls for both sides to wait for a recall referendum on Chavez's rule, which the constitution says can happen halfway into the president's six-year term. In Chavez's case, that is August.

Vampire charges dropped: A Malawi court dismissed charges Monday against a radio reporter arrested for interviewing a man who said he had been attacked by vampires.

For months the government has been trying to end a rash of stories about vampires attacking villagers at night and using syringes to remove their blood. President Bakili Muluzi has issued a decree ordering police to arrest anyone spreading them.

Community radio journalist Maganizo Mazeze on Saturday interviewed a man who claimed to have been attacked by vampires.

Mazeze was arrested Sunday and charged with broadcasting false news likely to cause public alarm.

Magistrate Silvestre Kalembera dismissed the charges Monday, saying police did not have an arrest warrant.

War on terrorism

Sept. 11 commission: An independent commission charged with investigating the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks is only beginning to confront a task complicated by a ticking clock, limited finances and the high expectations of those who lost loved ones.

The commission holds its first meeting in Washington on Monday, 16 months after the attacks. It will have just \$3 million and a little more than a year to explore the causes of the attacks, preparations for such terrorism and the response to the airline hijackings that killed more than 3,000 Americans.

By comparison, a federal commission created in 1996 was given two years and \$5 million to study legalized gambling.

Money matters

Airline alliance: Delta, Northwest and Continental airlines said Tuesday they will go ahead with a marketing alliance and ignore government restrictions aimed at preventing them from dominating air travel in certain markets.

The "code-sharing agreement" among the third-, fourth- and fifth-largest airlines would enable each to sell tickets for all three airlines, allowing them to reach more destinations without flying more planes. The Justice and Transportation departments approved the plan Friday, but transportation officials did so with certain stringent requirements. The airlines reviewed the government's plan during the weekend and found "some conditions are unacceptable, and we will not agree to them," according to a statement issued Tuesday.

In the meantime, Jenkins said, transportation officials can punish the three airlines by denying their requests for overseas routes.

Economics chat: President Bush summoned 15 economists, most of them conservative backers of his economic growth package, to chat about his tax cut plan Tuesday, opening a new front in the White House effort to sell the proposals to the public.

The White House billed the session as a chance for Bush to hear from a wide range of economists on how to kick-start the economy.

Democrats and a few Republicans have vowed to resist Bush's plan, saying it is tilted to favor the rich and would do little to stimulate the economy.

From The Associated Press

Attack: Americans urged to stay alert

Continued from Page 1

A U.S. Embassy official said the embassy was reviewing its security in Kuwait with the State Department and would share its recommendations with the American community. "We're urging Americans to be alert to their surroundings and to continually assess their security," he said on condition of anonymity.

Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Sheik Sabah Al Ahmed Al

Sabah, sent a condolence message to Secretary of State Colin Powell.

He expressed "sincere regret" and Kuwait's "strong condemnation of such criminal acts that target the historic relations and strong ties between the two friendly nations," the official Kuwait News Agency reported.

The attack took place Tuesday morning at a stoplight at the intersection of Highway 85 and Abu Dhabi Road north of Kuwait City, along the edge of a built-up neighbor-

hood with a McDonald's and other businesses. The road leads to Camp Doha, about three miles away, and is lined with trees and bushes with open desert behind.

The area was cordoned off with yellow crime tape, and the bullet-riddled SUV was loaded onto a flat bed truck and taken away.

Kuwaiti and U.S. military police and black-clad Interior Ministry investigators were at the scene. The pavement was littered with broken glass.

Terrorism resolution adopted

U.N. seeks controls on weapons of mass destruction

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — As concern grows about weapons programs in Iraq and North Korea, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution Monday giving new urgency to the global war on terrorism and seeking greater controls on nuclear, chemical and biological materials.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan opened a council meeting of foreign ministers with a warning that the world faces "a grave and growing threat from international ter-

rorism" and a call for greater efforts to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

Foreign ministers from 13 of the 15 U.N. Security Council members attended Monday's open council meeting on global terrorism, but Iraq and North Korea were woven into several speeches.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell used part of his speech to urge a reluctant Security Council not to be "shocked into impotence" when in the very near future it meets again to determine what to do about Iraq's cooperation and compliance with U.N. inspections.

Britain announced Monday it would send a land force of 26,000 troops to the Gulf in preparation for possible military action against Iraq. German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer warned, however, that a military strike against Iraq "would involve considerable and unpredictable risks for the global fight against terrorism" as well as regional stability.

Regarding Iraq, the majority of council members — including the French, Russians and Chinese, who all have veto power — want to hear the inspectors' Jan. 27 progress report and give them time to do their jobs.

Special delivery

ALMATY, Kazakhstan — The United States handed over to Kazakhstan on Monday the first of 39 high mobility army vehicles to be delivered to this Central Asian nation as part assistance in fighting terrorism, defense officials said.

U.S. Ambassador Larry Napper oversaw the delivery of the Hummer multipurpose vehicle to Kazakhstan's Defense Minister Mukhtar Altynbayev. The vehicles are part of an agreement on modernizing Kazakhstan's peacekeeping and anti-terrorism forces.

The vehicles worth \$2.5 million will be delivered over the next two years on a U.S. government credit.

Kazakhstan has backed the U.S.-led anti-terrorism coalition.

From The Associated Press

Buildup: Army sends 37,000 more troops; Navy carriers to go

Continued from Page 1

The 4th Infantry Division, nicknamed the Ivy Division, is considered the Army's most lethal, modern and deployable heavy division, with the most sophisticated information-gathering, command and control equipment.

In addition to about 12,500 soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, nearly 4,000 soldiers from the division's 3rd Brigade at Fort Carson, Colo., and more than 20,000 troops from 10 other installations comprise the task force, according to Fort Hood spokesman Cecil Green.

Officials in Washington said it was possible that parts or all of the task force would go to Turkey. The Pentagon has wanted to put ground forces into Turkey to establish the option of invading Iraq from the north. Thousands of U.S. forces already are in Kuwait, training for a possible attack on Iraq from the south.

The Turkish government had resisted the U.S. request for base access for ground forces, but U.S. officials said Tuesday that an agreement was in the works to permit basing of roughly 20,000 troops there.

Major force begins assembling in Britain

The Associated Press

LONDON — Britain, which has staunchly backed the United States' tough stance on Iraq, is now matching its political support with a huge military force that will be ready for war in weeks.

While Prime Minister Tony Blair insists that war is not inevitable, his government is assembling a force of 35,000 troops in the Gulf region, backed by everything from tanks and jets to nuclear submarines. In all, Britain is sending a quarter of its army.

"This is no token contribution to a U.S. force. It is a massive effort by Britain's armed forces," said Charles Heyman, an analyst with the publication *Jane's World Armies*.

While some U.S. allies, such as Australia, have backed Washington politically over Iraq, Britain is the only ally to offer substantial military aid.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on Monday met with Turkish military leaders in Ankara, the capital.

Afterward he refused to discuss details.

"Turkey has been a very cooperative partner," Myers said. "I would expect them to be in the future, as well."

Elsewhere on Iraq's periph-

The British force, drawn up in consultation with U.S. commanders, is dominated by fast moving assault units, giving insight as to what kind of fighting may be expected.

If there is a war, British commanders say privately they expect a campaign of lightning attacks designed to topple Saddam Hussein's regime and avoid protracted combat.

A British navy fleet made up of some 16 ships is heading for the Gulf with about 4,000 marines on board. The marines can operate as special forces behind enemy lines.

The army's contribution is two major combat units, including the 16th Air Assault Brigade, a force of paratroopers and assault helicopters designed for swift attacks. The other unit, the 7th Armored Brigade, with 120 tanks, artillery and four battalions of mechanized infantry, is for conventional armored warfare.

ery, the kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been reluctant to host a large number of U.S. ground forces, although it does accommodate U.S. air forces. The operations center from which the air portion of an Iraq war would be orchestrated is at Prince Sultan Air Base, south of Riyadh, the Saudi capital. In the 1991 Gulf War, most U.S. ground forces entered Iraq

and occupied Kuwait from Saudi territory.

Rumsfeld apparently gave the go-ahead to deploy Task Force Ironhorse last week. In remarks to the Reserve Officers Association on Monday, Rumsfeld made no reference to the Army deployment and said it remained possible that the Iraqi crisis could be resolved peacefully.

Gen.: Pilots showed 'reckless disregard'

Officer says two charged in accidental bombing of Canadian troops failed to follow procedures

BY KEVIN MCGILL
The Associated Press

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, Louisiana — Two U.S. pilots charged with involuntary manslaughter in the accidental bombing of Canadian troops showed a "reckless disregard" for standing orders by attacking ground fire instead of continuing on their course, an Air Force general testified Tuesday.

Brig. Gen. Stephen T. Sargeant, who headed the investigation into the bombing in southern Afghanistan, said in a military hearing that the pilots failed to follow procedure by not communicating about gunfire on the ground. At an altitude of more than 15,000 feet, the pilots were not in range of fire from the ground, he said.

Maj. Harry Schmidt, who dropped the bomb, and Maj. William Umbach, the mission's commander, were charged after an investigation headed by Sargeant concluded the pilots had acted rashly by attacking ground fire rather than evading it.

Sargeant testified the airmen should have reported the ground fire to flight controllers but should have stayed their course.

Instead, Schmidt slowed down and dropped in altitude, violating standing orders to keep himself out of danger, the general said.

As a pilot, "you are not to put yourself in harm's way," Sargeant said.

The ground fire came from Canadian troops conducting live-ammunition exercises at Tarnak Farms, a firing range near Kandahar. Four Canadians were killed and four were injured.

The hearing will determine whether the case against the

pilots should proceed to a court-martial. If convicted on all charges, which include aggravated assault and dereliction of duty, Schmidt and Umbach face up to 64 years in prison.

Lawyers for Schmidt and Umbach have said poor military communications kept the pilots unaware that allied troops would be in the area. With no knowledge of the allied troops, the pilots justifiably attacked in self-defense when they saw ground fire, they said. The defense also argues that Air Force-issued amphetamines, called "go pills," can impair pilots' judgment and that pilots were pressured to take them.

Sergeant, a government witness, answered questions after watching a computer simulation of the April 17 flight. The simulation showed the pilots were heading north, then Schmidt looped northeast after spotting flashes on the ground.

Sergeant said Umbach was at fault for letting Schmidt take control of the mission. As lead pilot, Umbach also failed to immediately order Schmidt to evade after Schmidt spotted the ground fire, Sergeant said.

Umbach "did not live up to his part of the contract as a flight lead," Sergeant said.

Access to Sergeant's testimony was blocked for long stretches Tuesday because it involved classified material.

On Monday, the Air Force called an intelligence officer, Capt. Evan Cozadd, who said pilots flying missions in the area had been told that allies might be on the ground.

But under cross-examination, Cozadd acknowledged that he did not know Canadians were conducting live-fire exercises near Kandahar.

Tricare changes ease access to care in remote locations

BY SEAN E. COBB
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The military's health care program plans to take better care of servicemembers stationed at remote locations around the world.

Tricare's Prime Remote program allows servicemembers and their families to use enrolled health providers anywhere in the world without paying cash up front or filing claims, according to Maj. Wayne White, the Tricare Europe remote health care director.

Tricare Management activities recently announced that International SOS Assistance Inc. received a multimillion-dollar contract to manage remote health care.

Tricare awarded the contract for one year, and it could cost the government between \$2 million to \$5.8 million, depending on the amount of care managed per year. The contract has a four-year renewal option, according to a contract press release.

The contract mostly affects servicemembers working at embassies, but also includes those assigned to a few other overseas locations, White said.

Tricare officials have not finalized the list of locations where the contract applies, but a remote location is anywhere more than 50 miles or more than a one-hour drive from a military treatment facility, officials said.

Tricare already offers Prime Remote to servicemembers stationed at select locations in the U.S. Central Command region. The new contract expands that service to locations worldwide, said Troy Kitch, the Tricare Europe spokesman.

The contract covers all three Tricare overseas regions — Europe, Pacific and Latin America — plus Canada, Kitch said.

The program provides routine, urgent and emergency medical and dental care for active-duty servicemembers, and routine, urgent and emergency medical care for family members.

The program also covers medical and dental care for servicemembers on temporary duty or leave while in remote overseas locations, Kitch said.

Servicemembers do not need to complete any special actions to sign up for the program, White said. Officials at the remote locations take care of enrolling members and their families when the servicemembers arrive and in-process, he said.

Tricare and the new contractor are hoping to have the program running in new locations by August or September, White said.

"While the transition to the new service won't happen overnight, we're excited about the progress that's being made," he said.

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USS Kitty Hawk mission remains a tossup

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO
AND RICK CHERNITZER

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — With a possible war on the horizon, the USS Kitty Hawk pulled out of port Monday morning for the brief test cruise that almost always precedes a major deployment.

Sailors and family members said the ship will be out for a few days to test some of its systems before returning for a brief period. Later this week, it's expected to head to sea for a mission sailors have been told could last months.

The question on everyone's minds: Where is the aircraft carrier headed? Will it be part of a possible action against Iraq? Or is it simply hanging around the Pacific to "show the flag" in the crisis with North Korea?

Officially, the Navy isn't saying.

"We do not discuss ship's movements or future operations," said Lt. Marc Boyd, a 7th Fleet spokesman, echoing a familiar refrain.

But privately, some Navy officials say a trip to the Persian Gulf is just as likely as a mission in the Western Pacific.

"From everything that I'm told, we will head out for sea trials, probably pull back into port for one day, then head back out to sea," said one senior Kitty Hawk officer. "At that point, we make that big left turn to the Gulf, or we start doing laps in this area."

Speculation abounds.

One recent report by The Associated Press said the Pentagon was "almost certain" to approve a five-carrier force, including the Kitty Hawk, in an attack on Iraq.

In that scenario, the USS Carl Vinson would take over the Kitty Hawk's duties in the Western Pacific.

Local Navy officials declined to comment on that report. However, they did say that once the ship gets further under way and its mission becomes known, more information would be made available.

Experts in Asian affairs say the current North Korean situation complicates what the U.S. Navy may plan for the Kitty Hawk.

"This is all speculation, obviously, but taking the Kitty Hawk out of the Western Pacific would send a sure signal to Pyongyang that the U.S. isn't interested in a first strike," said Sheila Smith, a fel-

low and Asia regional security expert at the East-West Center in Hawaii.

"It would make sense, going back to the '93-'94 crisis, when the Navy brought in another battle group to show North Korea that they were serious about using force. The message this time is that they are not going to use force."

But, Smith said, any messages being sent likely are being transmitted at a different level.

"The signals are political, not necessarily ship movements," she said. "But the alliances we have, with Tokyo and Seoul, make it more difficult. A policy of preemption — and this is the difference from Iraq — is almost unthinkable in this case. The potential fallout, literally, would be Seoul."

"The best thing for Pyongyang is for Washington, Tokyo and Seoul to have different intentions."

Kitty Hawk family members have their own worries.

"We just want them to come home safe and sound," said Tracy Johnson, whose husband, Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Johnson, is stationed aboard the ship. "That's the most important thing."

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Atsugi squadron hones torpedo-handling skills

BY RICK CHERNITZER

Stars and Stripes

ATSUGI NAVAL AIR FACILITY, Japan — Call it a lesson in loading bombs for beginners.

Inside a roped-off area in Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron (Light) 51's hangar here, team leader Jason Douglas reads a list of step-by-step instructions, shouting out directions to a group of fellow sailors from the squadron's Detachment Five. The center of attention: a brightly painted torpedo on a yellow towing device.

And the sailors working meticulously on the torpedo typically don't handle things that go boom. They're avionics technicians, search-and-rescue crewmen, airframe technicians and other ratings who work around torpedoes, but not with them.

Douglas checks off steps on his sheet with a China marker as the group completes them. As his finger slides down the list of directions, he comes across a warning. In a steady,

confident tone, almost as if he were barking marching orders to a group of cadets, he shouts:

"Warning! Suspension bands release with sufficient force to seriously injure personnel! End of warning!"

Then, in unison, the other four sailors reply, "Warning acknowledged!"

The Conventional Weapons Training Proficiency Inspection, conducted every two years, examines how well teams adhere to the volumes of checklists and training manuals for every minute procedure involved with arming a helicopter. It ensures that those who don't normally handle torpedoes are up to speed with procedures they may have to employ in a real situation.

They don't normally read these instructions and cautions out loud while loading actual ordnance in one of those real situations, explains Chief Petty Officer Michael Hall, HSL-51's weapons officer.

"But if they can do it step by

step here exactly, then we know they could do it out there on their own," he says. "We want it to come natural to them, but safety is what we want."

Hall says it is extremely important that sailors in other rates know how to handle torpedoes and weapons systems. Torpedoes normally are handled by aviation ordnancemen, known in the Navy as "AOs."

"There are only five AOs in the entire squadron," Hall says. "So we don't have nearly enough people to man each detachment."

"All right, gather round," says Chief Petty Officer Matt Thackery, lead inspector, after the group finishes the procedure.

He reviews a few small details that could be fine-tuned.

"You guys did fine," Thackery tells the assembly.

"They did outstanding," he said later. "It was one of the best inspections we ever had."

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Shooting probed

TUZLA, Bosnia and Herzegovina — Stabilization Force officials and local police are investigating an incident in which three SFOR troops are suspected of firing their weapons into an empty vehicle.

According to an SFOR press release, local police responded to a complaint early Sunday about weapons being fired and discovered the three had driven their vehicle off the road near a house on Bjelasnica Mountain, near Sarajevo. The shots were fired into a vehicle next to the house.

The suspects were turned over to SFOR by the local police. No one was injured and no civilians were involved, the SFOR release stated.

SFOR would not release the nationality of the personnel.

From staff reports

Sharpton in presidential race

WASHINGTON — Saying the Democratic Party needs to expand its political base, the Rev. Al Sharpton formally filed papers Tuesday seeking the party's nomination for the 2004 presidential race.

The 48-year-old civil rights leader said he was the only candidate who is "anti-war, anti-death penalty, anti-tax cut across the board." Sharpton, who is black, said he would reach out to disaffected voters, including Latinos, blacks and young people.

Last week, Sharpton charged that too many presidential candidates are "rich white men" who don't understand the makeup of America or the world community, and that the country is "going in the wrong direction."

Court rejects appeal

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court refused Tuesday to revive a lawsuit that blamed Hollywood for a school shooting in Kentucky.

The case questioned the responsibility of moviemakers and other entertainment companies for video games and other products that feature violence.

The court did not comment in rejecting an appeal filed by the families of three girls killed in 1997 at a high school near Paducah, Ky. They argued that entertainment companies were wrongly using the First Amendment free speech protection to shield themselves from lawsuits.

Smallpox vaccine plan

Despite growing unease among health-care workers, and a new report counseling caution, the Bush administration plans to ship its first batches of smallpox vaccine to states on Tuesday, launching a program to immunize local "first response" teams against a bioterrorist attack.

"We need to do what we need to do, which is to get this show on the road," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in a telephone press briefing with reporters.

Both homeland security and national defense concerns dictate that the voluntary vaccination program proceed quickly, she said.

"We are in fact living in a dangerous world, where a smallpox attack is possible," said Gerberding, whose agency is overseeing the program.

Initial shipments of vaccine to 11 states that have requested the first doses are likely to begin Tuesday, Gerberding said, although she refused to identify which ones — saying it was up to individual states to disclose such information.

From wire reports

Supreme Court retirement could affect abortion ruling

BY ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruling allowing legal abortions turns 30 years this week, an anniversary heavily shadowed by speculation that a high court retirement could shift the balance of power in abortion politics.

For abortion rights supporters, the departure of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor would be most troublesome. For anti-abortion forces, the wild card could be the exit of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist.

The court is split 5-4 in favor of abortion rights. O'Connor is considered a cautious supporter and the swing vote to uphold *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 case providing for legal abortions.

Should she retire, President Bush's more conservative supporters will certainly press for him to pick a strong anti-abortion nominee.

"It's in the greatest danger it's ever been in," Feminist Majority President Eleanor Smeal said of the *Roe* decision. "You're one vote away."

Smeal cited what she called a White House track record of picking only presumed abortion foes for federal appeals courts slots and Bush's campaign pledge to choose Supreme Court nominees in the mold of Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas. Both have voted to place restrictions on abortion.

Rehnquist is considered a vote to over-

turn *Roe*, or at least to allow its continued erosion. A like-minded conservative in his place would preserve the status quo, but anti-abortion activists fear the consequences if Bush picked a more moderate replacement.

In particular, those opposed to abortion worry Bush may name a close ally, White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales.

"For all the pro-life groups Judge Gonzales is probably a nonstarter as a nominee," said Richard Lessner, spokesman for the Family Research Council. He pointed to Gonzales' vote while a Texas Supreme Court justice to allow a teenager to get an abortion without parental consent.

American Life League President Judie Brown went further.

"It would be absolutely a tragedy if he were nominated," she said.

Others said to be on Bush's short list are presumed to be more conservative and more likely to side against abortion rights.

Top candidates may be J. Harvie Wilkinson, the conservative chief judge of the Richmond-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, or another federal appeals court judge, Samuel A. Alito of the Philadelphia-based 3rd Circuit. Also said to be on the list is Theodore Olson, a top lawyer on the legal team that won the Supreme Court case that ended Florida ballot recounts in the disputed 2000 presidential election and now the administration's top Supreme Court lawyer.

Hispanics largest U.S. minority population

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hispanics have surpassed blacks as the nation's largest minority group, the Census Bureau said Tuesday.

The Latino population grew to 37 million in July 2001, up 4.7 percent from April 2000. The black population increased 2 percent during the same period, to 36.1 million.

The estimates are the Census Bureau's first statistics on race and ethnicity since results from the 2000 census were released two years ago.

Census Bureau demographer Roberto Ramirez said it has long been expected that Hispanics would someday surpass blacks because their birth and immigration rates are higher.

"And the trend shows it will clearly be increasing more in the future," Ramirez said.

Hispanics now comprise nearly 13 percent of the U.S. population, which grew to 284.8 million in July 2001. That's up from 35.3 million, or 12.5 percent of the country's 281.4 million residents in April 2000.

Blacks make up 12.7 percent of the nation's population, up from 12.6 percent in April 2000. The black population grew by 700,000 in the 15 months after the census was released.

Whites remained the largest single population group, numbering about 199.3 million in July 2001, nearly 70 percent of all U.S. residents.

Asians are the next largest minority group after blacks and Hispanics, at about 12.1 million, or 4 percent of the population.

The federal government considers "Hispanic" an ethnicity, not a race. Therefore people of Hispanic ethnicity can be of any race.

Brit government berates firefighters for job action

The Associated Press

LONDON — The pay dispute between Britain's firefighters and the government grew increasingly acrimonious Tuesday as lawmakers accused strikers of draining military resources during a critical time.

Soldiers have been forced to cover for the nation's 55,000 firefighter during the 24-hour walk-out, placing further pressure on the armed forces, after the government announced 35,000 troops were being sent to the Gulf to prepare for a possible war with Iraq.

"If they want to fight a war on two fronts, that's up to them," said firefighter Andy Baldoch, as he acknowledged the supportive horn-blowing of drivers passing his picket line in south London. "We have the support of the public to earn a fair wage."

The firefighters are demanding a 40 percent raise and rejecting an offer of 11 percent pay increase along with changes in their working conditions.

The government said the soldiers were well-equipped to take over from the firefighters, as they did in two earlier week-long strikes in November, but criticized the Fire Brigades Union for the timing of the latest walkout.

"I believe they could be more

responsible by getting round a negotiating table and finding a solution to what they believe to be their grievances over pay and conditions," said Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram. "There is no question that having to deploy in the numbers we are deploying ... puts a particular pressure on the armed forces."

Bernard Jenkin, defense spokesman for the main opposition Conservative Party, urged Prime Minister Tony Blair to use his emergency powers to outlaw the walkout.

"The firefighters are great people, but the FBU leaders are a bunch of idiots. They are ignoring the disruption they are causing to the forces' preparation for action in the Gulf," Jenkin said.

Firefighters have rejected an offer by local authorities of an 11 percent raise over two years in return for wide-ranging reforms of working practices, claiming the package would cost 4,500 jobs.

The government says the fire service must modernize and become more efficient.

Andy Gilchrist, the union leader, called Jenkin's comments inflammatory and said they angered firefighters who are striking to retain the current standard of the fire service as well as over pay issues.

Libyan elected to head Human Rights Commission

GENEVA — The United Nations' top human rights watchdog Monday elected a Libyan diplomat as this year's president, overriding objections from the United States that the country's "horrible" record disqualifies it for such a post.

Riding on a wave of African solidarity, Libyan ambassador Najat Al-Hajjaji received votes from 33 countries in her bid to head the 53-member U.N. Human Rights Commission for its annual session starting in March.

The United States and two other nations voted against her, and 17 abstained.

"It is especially sad today when America celebrates the birthday of Martin Luther King, a champion of human rights, that a nation which flaunts human rights abuses would be elected chair," U.S. Ambassador Kevin E. Moley told reporters.

Although European nations reportedly were dismayed at the nomination, they chose to abstain rather than vote against Libya.

From wire reports

Fog hampers avalanche investigation

REVELSTOKE, British Columbia — Heavy fog prevented investigators on Tuesday from reaching the remote site in British Columbia's jagged mountains where an avalanche killed seven backcountry skiers, including three Americans.

One other skier was hospitalized after Monday's avalanche near Durrand Glacier in the Selkirk mountain range, police said. The 13 other skiers avoided serious injury.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said two of the American victims were from California and one was from Colorado. The Canadians were from Alberta and British Columbia.

The names of the dead were not made public.

Clair Israelson, director of the Canadian Avalanche Association in Revelstoke, said poor weather made it impossible to reach the area to investigate why a wall of snow fell on the skiers, who had traveled into the mountains by helicopter.

Anthrax vaccine washed up on beach

LONDON — Several boxes of anthrax vaccines from the Ministry of Defence were found washed up on a southern British beach Monday, officials said.

Investigators were checking if the boxes were from a ship that was headed to the Persian Gulf as part of a U.S. and British military buildup for possible war against Iraq, a Ministry of Defence spokeswoman said.

The packages found at West Bay in Dorset, southern England, also included some vials of dimercaprol, which acts as an antidote to heavy metal poisoning.

The beach was closed and searched after coast guards found the vaccines at 11 a.m. The Ministry of Defense said scores of vials were in the packages.

"We can confirm it was issued to the armed forces," a Ministry of Defence spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity. "Neither of the two drugs pose a risk to public health."

Device senses crash before it occurs

TOKYO — The new car safety feature from Toyota Motor Corp. doesn't wait for a crash to happen.

Equipped with a wallet-size radar on the front grille that judges the distance of oncoming objects, the car knows when it's about to crash and tightens seat belts and adds braking force within a second before a collision, lessening damage and saving lives, the Japanese automaker says.

In a tryout Tuesday, drivers speeding toward a cone on a test course could feel the safety belt tweak suddenly before the car struck the cone. They said it is a spookily strange feeling to drive a car that seems to know what's about to happen and reacts on its own.

Taiwan-China ties may be thawing

TAIPEI, Taiwan — A Taiwanese lawmaker responsible for the ruling party's China policy has traveled to the mainland for a visit that may signal a significant thawing in relations between the rivals, an official said Monday.

Chen Chung-hsin — head of the Democratic Progressive Party's China Affairs Department — arrived in Beijing on Sunday for a five-day visit before heading to Shanghai, said a Taiwanese official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Chen likely will meet with Vice Premier Qian Qichen and the Chinese Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office, the official said.

From wire reports

Bucs ready, steer clear of predictions

BY FRED GOODALL

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Confident, yet humble. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers weren't making any brash predictions about the Super Bowl on Monday, but they clearly won't consider their season complete without a victory over the Oakland Raiders.

"I don't think you've heard any of our players say we're just happy to be here. If I read that, I'm personally going to visit that individual," said NFL defensive player of the year Derrick Brooks. "We're very humble, but we're here to get a job done, that's to win this ball game. So are the Raiders. I'm quite sure they're thinking the same thing."

The Bucs joined the NFL in 1976, lost their first 26 games, then made the playoffs three times in four years. But

from 1983-96, they did not have a winning record and lost 10 or more games in 13 of those 14 seasons.

Tampa Bay began to turn it around under former coach Tony Dungy, who took the team to the NFC championship game three years ago.

Jon Gruden took the Bucs one step further in his first year as coach, justifying ownership's decision to spend four high draft picks and \$8 million to obtain the NFL's youngest coach from the Raiders.

"It's been a journey," General Manager Rick McKay said. "It was not an overnight journey. It was a slow boat to China and the boat had holes."

The team flew to San Diego without Gruden, who stayed behind in Tampa to work on the game plan. He was to join the players on Tuesday.

"The problem is in a one-week Super Bowl where you have to travel across

the country. If you travel [Monday], it kills your one big planning day," said McKay, who subbed for Gruden at the team's first press conference. "Jon was concerned about game-planning because he does a lot of that himself."

A major story line this week will be the fiery coach going against his old team for the first time.

McKay said the coach is not looking forward to being bombarded with questions about his departure from the Raiders last winter.

"I think he views it as something that's going to be talked about, but I don't think he'll give you long answers to the situation in the sense that it really is yesterday's news," McKay said.

"I don't think he wants that to be a focus. One thing we talked about is this team. What they accomplished Sunday and what they accomplished this year, you don't in any way want to detract from that. It will be a sidebar,

but I don't think Jon is comfortable in saying that's something he wants to deal with every day."

The game will be a contrast of strengths. It's the first Super Bowl to pit the league's No. 1 offense against the No. 1 defense.

"It is going to be a game of epic proportion," defensive end Simeon Rice said. "It's going to be a chess match, a battle of the best of the best."

Defensive tackle Warren Sapp, sporting sunglasses and a No. 7 Eagles jersey with Ron Jaworski's name on it, said he's not concerned about a let-down following Tampa Bay's 27-10 victory at Philadelphia in the NFC championship game.

"Like I said before we left the Vet, we aren't here for a vacation," Sapp said. "I live on the only peninsula in the United States of America. If I want vacation time, I live it every day of my life. I'm not here for a vacation."

FOOTBALL

NEW YORK — Giants rookie Jeremy Shockey was fined \$10,000 for throwing a cup of ice into the stands and making an obscene gesture during a first-round playoff loss at San Francisco.

TENNIS

MELBOURNE, Australia — Venus Williams slammed aces, Andre Agassi executed precision serves.

Both advanced to the Australian Open semifinals Tuesday as Williams moved closer to another showdown with sister Serena, and Agassi neared a fourth title in this Grand Slam event.

Sports in brief

After fans loudly called some of her shots out, Williams responded with a burst of winners midway through the first set of her 6-4, 6-3 victory over seventh-seeded Daniela Hantuchova.

She will meet fifth-seeded Justine Henin-Hardenne in the semifinal. The Belgian beat Virginia Ruano Pascual 6-2, 6-2.

Agassi enjoyed another stress-free match — a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory over France's Sebastien Grosjean. He next plays Wayne Ferreira in the semifinals. The

South African upset fourth-seeded Juan Carlos Ferrero 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5), 6-1.

Henin-Hardenne, who tumbled to the court with leg cramps in a 3½-hour fourth-round victory over Lindsay Davenport on Sunday, dropped her opening service game and trailed 2-0 before winning eight in a row.

A semifinal victory by Williams could set up a fourth consecutive Grand Slam final against her sister. Serena faces Meghann Shaughnessy in a Wednesday quarterfinal and is aiming for a fourth consecutive major to complete her "Serena Slam."

Continued on Page 9

Al Hirschfeld dies at age 99

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Show-biz caricaturist Al Hirschfeld, whose curlicued, pen-and-ink drawings captured the biggest stars of Broadway and Hollywood, from Charlie Chaplin and Ethel Merman to Woody Allen and Jerry Seinfeld, died Monday. He was 99.

Hirschfeld, whose drawings were first published in the 1920s, died in his sleep at his home in New York, said his wife, Louise.

He had been at work as recently as Saturday, drawing a sketch of the Marx Brothers for a commission.

"He was a dancer with a pen. He absolutely danced. All his drawings have incredible movement," said director and performer Tommy Tune, the subject of Hirschfeld's most recent drawing in The New York Times, in December. "He caught my spirit, and I was very, very touched by it."

The artist, an urbane man with white hair and a Santa Claus beard, never analyzed his beloved style, which al-



A 1984 Hirschfeld drawing depicts actors Burt Reynolds, left, and Clint Eastwood, right.

ways included the name of his daughter, Nina, hidden in the fluid, graceful lines for readers to find.

Albert Hirschfeld was born June 21, 1903, in St. Louis. The family later moved to New York, where Hirschfeld studied at the Art Students League. His first job was as art director for a movie studio. He studied painting, drawing and sculpture in Paris and London during the 1920s.

In addition to his wife, an art historian, he is survived by his daughter and a grandson.

Faces 'n' places

Scorsese's work recognized

The Directors Guild of America will honor director **Martin Scorsese** with a lifetime achievement award during its 55th annual awards ceremony March 1, officials said.

The director of "Gangs of New York" will become the 30th recipient of the award, which is the organization's highest tribute.

Scorsese, 60, has a directing career spanning more than four decades and his work includes: "Taxi Driver," "The Age of Innocence," "Raging Bull," "Casino" and "GoodFellas." On Sunday, he won a best director Golden Globe.

Lee: 'Barbershop' doesn't cut it

Filmmaker **Spike Lee** says he's concerned that young moviegoers will form their first impressions of civil rights icons **Rosa Parks** and **Martin Luther King Jr.** from a bitter character in last year's comedy "Barbershop."

The keynote speaker at two events Saturday honoring King's birthday, Lee told hundreds of teenagers at the **Lauderhill, Fla.**, Boys & Girls Club that he didn't laugh when he heard a character played by **Cedric the Entertainer** belittle Parks' refusal to move to the back of the bus.

Lee, the maker of such films as "Malcolm X," "Do the Right Thing" and the recently released "25th Hour," also didn't find it funny when the character accused King of being sexually promiscuous.

But Lee said too many adults do laugh at those scenes. Instead, he said, they should be teaching young children about the accomplishments, challenges and sacrifices of the leaders of the civil rights movement.

"To me, some things aren't funny," said Lee. "If our young children grow up thinking this, and that's all they know about [Parks and King], then we're in trouble."

From The Associated Press

Wizards 89, Nuggets 74

WASHINGTON — Michael Jordan scored 10 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter to lead Washington to an 89-74 victory over Denver on Monday.

Jordan shot just 5-for-14 from the floor in the first three quarters, but made four jump shots, a driving layup and a finger role during a decisive 15-4 run. He shot 11-for-22 in the game.

While Jordan struggled, the Wizards counted on Larry Hughes for their offense. Hughes scored 20 points and sparked a 21-6 third-quarter run that helped Washington overcome a sluggish first half in which it scored just 39 points.

Juwan Howard scored 25 points for the Nuggets, who lost their third straight. Howard scored 15 first-half points against his former team.

Bulls 115, Hawks 102

ATLANTA — Jalen Rose matched a season high with 37 points and Marcus Fizer added 24, helping Chicago ended a 19-game road losing streak with a victory over Atlanta.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim scored 27 points for the Hawks. Jason Terry had 23 and Glenn Robinson added 20.

The Bulls got 12 points from Rick Brunson, a reserve guard making his season debut after sitting out the first 40 games with tendinitis in his right knee.

Donyell Marshall pulled down 13 rebounds and Jamal Crawford, starting in place of injured point guard Jay Williams, handed out six assists.

Knicks 72, Heat 65

NEW YORK — Latrell Sprewell outscored Miami in the first quarter and New York went on to defeat the Heat as the teams matched the NBA record for fewest combined points in a first half with 57.

Sprewell scored 14 of his 24 points in the first quarter as New York took an 18-12 lead. Miami eventually went ahead by as many as eight, but the Heat managed only 11 points in the fourth quarter and lost on the road for the seventh straight time.

Kurt Thomas added 15 points. Eddie

NBA

Jones scored 19 and Malik Allen added 13 for the Heat.

Kings 102, Warriors 80

OAKLAND, Calif. — Peja Stojakovic scored 11 of his 16 points in the third quarter as Sacramento pulled away for good and beat Golden State.

Vlade Divac added 16 points and 11 rebounds and Chris Webber had 16 points and eight rebounds for Sacramento, which beat the Warriors for the 13th straight time.

Mike Bibby had 15 points, nine assists and three steals.

Jason Richardson led Golden State with 28 points on his 22nd birthday, including three straight dunks to start the game. Troy Murphy added 13 points and 15 rebounds.

Pistons 88, Pacers 78

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Ben Wallace scored a season-high 14 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, and Detroit used a late surge to beat Indiana.

After trailing much of the game, Detroit went on a 9-0 run to take an 82-73 lead with 1:29 left. The Pistons pulled within 1½ games of the Central Division-leading Pacers, who had won six of seven.

Detroit's Richard Hamilton scored 18, Cliff Robinson had 15, and Chauncey Billups added 10. Wallace made 7 of 9 shots.

Indiana's Reggie Miller scored 28 points and became the 18th NBA player to score 23,000 points. Ron Artest scored 14 points and O'Neal had 12 points and 11 rebounds.

Hornets 114, Suns 102

NEW ORLEANS — David Wesley scored 28 points, hitting five three-pointers, to lead New Orleans over Phoenix.

Wesley's fifth three-pointer gave New Orleans its largest lead, 89-72, early in the fourth quarter. He entered having averaged more than 21 points his previous seven games.

Jamaal Magloire scored a season-high 22 points and grabbed nine rebounds for New Orleans.

Jamal Mashburn added 19 points, while Baron Davis had 18 points and nine assists for the Hornets, who made nearly 53 percent of their shots.

Shawn Marion led Phoenix with 25 points, Stephon Marbury and Amare Stoudemire added 22 and Joe Johnson had 19.

Timberwolves 89, Raptors 81

MINNEAPOLIS — Kevin Garnett had 19 points and 15 rebounds and Minnesota held on despite a late 16-5 run by Toronto to beat the Raptors.

Point guard Troy Hudson returned after missing three games with an ankle injury to score 16 points in 27 minutes off the bench for the Timberwolves.

Hudson hit a three-pointer to spark a 15-0 run spanning the third and fourth quarters that put the Wolves ahead for good.

Guard Voshon Lenard led the Raptors with 22 points in a reserve role while Morris Peterson and Alvin Williams each added 13.

Trail Blazers 99, Grizzlies 87

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Bonzi Wells scored 14 points and grabbed nine rebounds, and Jeff McInnis added 15 points off the bench to lead Portland over Memphis.

Portland, playing its second game without leading scorer and rebounder Rasheed Wallace who is serving a seven-game suspension, had six players in double figures, including three reserves.

Scottie Pippen matched Wells' 14 points and added five assists, while Ruben Patterson scored 13.

Lorenzen Wright led Memphis with 22 points and nine rebounds, while Jason Williams and Gordan Giricek finished with 15 each.

Brevin Knight had 11 off the bench.

Spurs 87, Rockets 82

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan scored 32 points and converted a tiebreaking three-point play in the final minute, as San Antonio defeated Houston.

The Rockets erased a 13-point Spurs' lead in the fourth quarter despite star point guard Steve Francis and center Yao Ming spending the entire period on the bench. Yao played 24 minutes and had 11 points and eight rebounds.

David Robinson added 14 points and Tony Parker 11 for San Antonio. Cuttino Mobley and Morris led the Rockets with 15 each, while Taylor and James Posey both contributed 10.

Celtics 100, 76ers 99

PHILADELPHIA — Paul Pierce scored 40 points and Antoine Walker added 33, including the winning three-pointer in the final minute, as Boston rallied from a 20-point halftime deficit to beat Philadelphia.

Boston has won four successive games.

Allen Iverson had 29 points and Eric Snow added 17 for the Sixers, who have lost eight of their past 10 games.

Walker's three-pointer with 30 seconds remaining gave the Celtics a 100-99 lead. The Sixers had three chances to win it in the final seconds, but Aaron McKie missed a shot and Snow missed two, including a 19-foot shot before the buzzer.

Jazz 106, Nets 103 (OT)

SALT LAKE CITY — Karl Malone forced overtime on a basket in the final second of regulation and scored four of his 24 points in the extra period as Utah beat New Jersey in a foul-filled, physical game.

Utah's John Stockton added a season-high 25 points, including eight in overtime, and went 5-for-6 from the free throw line in the final 20.2 seconds to seal the Jazz's fourth consecutive victory.

There were 63 personal fouls called, including two flagrant fouls, and three technicals in the game, which lasted nearly three hours.

Continued on Page 10

Flames 4, Oilers 3

NEW YORK — Craig MacTavish and the Edmonton Oilers couldn't stop the Calgary Flames. The best they could do was silence the opposing mascot.

Harvey the Hound, the Calgary Flames' 200-pound mascot, got too close to the Oilers' bench and under the skin of Coach MacTavish.

Already dealing with an impending 4-3 loss to the Flames on Monday night, MacTavish answered Harvey's repeated taunts with a yank that ripped out the white dog's foot-long red tongue.

The Flames let a four-goal lead turn into a nail-biter as Edmonton's Brian Swanson, Marty Reasoner and Mike York scored in a span of less than four minutes late in the game, but the Oilers couldn't get the tying goal and lost their second straight.

NHL

Calgary escaped with a victory, but Harvey didn't get away so lucky.

"[Harvey] was in a place he shouldn't have been," Flames spokesman Peter Hanlon said.

With 37-year-old Dave Lowry added to Calgary's top line, Craig Conroy had two goals and an assist, and Jarome Iginla set up three goals. Lowry had his first goal of the season and two assists.

Chris Drury also scored for the Flames. It was the first three-point game of the season for both Iginla and Conroy, who have spent all season trying to find their form from last season.

"He's gritty, he plays with an edge and that made a difference on our line," Conroy said of Lowry. "He's an experienced guy whose played 1,000 games in the league and he knows what he's got to do out there."

Capitals 3, Bruins 3

BOSTON — Joe Thornton had a goal and two assists, setting up Glen Murray's goal with 4:26 left as Boston rallied from a two-goal deficit.

The goal deprived Olaf Kolzig of his 200th victory as Washington's winless streak reached four games (0-2-2). Kolzig stopped 38 shots and held on as the Capitals killed a double minor that stretched into overtime.

Continued on Page 10

Continued from Page 8

Agassi didn't serve faster than 117 mph in beating Grosjean and advancing to the semis of a Grand Slam tournament for the 23rd time.

Ferreira, playing in his 49th consecutive Grand Slam, advanced to his first Grand Slam semifinal since the 1992 Australian Open.

If Agassi gets past Ferreira and then wins a fourth title Down Under, the victory spur plans for the next Grand Slam — a comeback by wife Steffi Graf at the French Open.

Agassi wants her to play mixed doubles with him in Paris if he wins at Melbourne Park. The 33-year-old Graf retired in July 1999, weeks after winning at Roland Garros for her 22nd Grand Slam singles title.

In the fourth round Monday, No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt's hope of becoming the first Australian men's champion in this event since 1976 vanished under a barrage of aces by Younes El Aynaoui.

Sports in brief continued

El Aynaoui, seeded 18th, allowed Hewitt just three break points — and no breaks of serve — in the 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5), 6-4 upset.

Andy Roddick will face El Aynaoui in the quarters. Roddick lost the first two sets against Russian Davis Cup hero Mikhail Youzhny before winning 6-7 (4), 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-2.

Rainer Schuettler moved on to the quarters with a 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3 victory over James Blake and faces 10th-seeded David Nalbandian.

The Wimbledon finalist ousted No. 6 Roger Federer 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3.

BASKETBALL

CLEVELAND — Keith Smart was named Cleveland's fourth coach in four years, replacing John Lucas who was fired after going 8-34 and failing to

develop the Cavaliers' younger players.

Lucas, fired 1½ years into a three-year, \$9 million contract, couldn't make winners out of the lowly Cavs. Smart is best known for making the game-winning jump shot for Indiana in the 1987 NCAA championship game against Syracuse. He inherits the league's youngest team.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Commissioner David Stern defended the NBA's seven-game suspension of Portland Trail Blazers' star Rasheed Wallace, saying the league won't tolerate threats against officials.

Wallace was suspended Saturday for a confrontation with referee Tim Donaghy on the Rose Garden loading dock in Portland after the Trail Blazers' 100-92 victory over Memphis last week.

OLYMPICS

DENVER — The U.S. Olympic Committee plans an independent investigation of Lloyd Ward following the resignation of five members angered by his ex-oration on ethics charges.

The investigation comes amid a report in the Los Angeles Times that the U.S. Justice Department plans to send officials to the Dominican Republic to investigate a deal between the 2003 Pan American Games and a company with ties to Ward's brother.

FIGURE SKATING

MALMOE, Sweden — Olympic silver medalist Irina Slutskaya finished second in qualifying at the European Figure Skating Championships to Elena Sokolova, who ended a nearly five-year hiatus from major competition.

Sokolova hit seven triple jumps to top world champion Slutskaya.

From The Associated Press

College basketball

No. 7 Oklahoma 69, Texas Tech 64 (OT)

NORMAN, Okla. — Hollis Price made a shot at the buzzer to force overtime, then scored five of Oklahoma's nine points in the extra period as the Sooners (12-3, 3-1 Big 12) won their 32nd straight at home.

Price, who left briefly after getting hit in the face on a fastbreak, finished with 23 points and came through twice at the end of regulation. First, he got fouled on a three-point try with 22.3 seconds left and made all three free throws to tie it at 58.

Will Chavis made both ends of a 1-and-1 to give Texas Tech (11-3, 1-2) a 60-58 lead with 4.5 seconds to play.

Oklahoma inbounded to Price, who dribbled the length of the floor and hit a jumper from about 15 feet to send the game to overtime.

No. 10 Creighton 95, Illinois State 82

OMAHA, Neb. — Larry House scored a career-high 23 points and had eight rebounds as No. 10 Creighton beat Illinois State 95-82 Monday night.

House, who came in averaging 9.1 points, picked up the scoring slack on a night when star forward Kyle Korver was held in check until the final 10 minutes. Creighton (16-1, 7-0 Missouri Valley Conference) won its sixth straight and swept the season series.

Hours after becoming a Top 10 team for the first time in the 85-year history of their program, the Bluejays turned

in a workmanlike performance against the Redbirds.

Korver, the MVC's leading scorer, was held to just five shots and 12 points through the first 30 minutes. He finished with 17 points on 4-for-8 shooting.

Trey Guidry led the Redbirds with 21 points and Baboucar Bojang had 18. Illinois State (1-14, 0-7) dropped its eighth in a row.

Miami 77, No. 11 UConn 76

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Darius Rice capped a 43-point performance with a dramatic finish, stealing an inbounds pass and sinking a three-pointer at the final buzzer as Miami stunned Connecticut.

UConn appeared to clinch a victory when Ben Gordon hit two free throws with 8.9 seconds left, giving him 32 points and the Huskies a 76-72 lead.

But Miami's Armondo Surratt drove for an uncontested layup with 4 seconds to go and Shamoon Tooles' inbounds pass was stolen in the corner by Rice, who swished a shot as time expired.

Miami (8-7, 1-3 Big East) broke a three-game losing streak, including an overtime loss at UConn on Jan. 11. The Huskies (11-3, 2-1), beaten Saturday at North Carolina, have lost two in a row for the first time since Feb. 2.

Rice's career-best scoring performance tied for the third-highest in Big East history. He made 16 of 27 shots, including seven of 12 three-pointers.

From The Associated Press

NHL continued

Continued from Page 9

Steve Shields stopped 26 shots for Boston, 2-7-1 in its past 10.

Canadiens 3, Panthers 2

SUNRISE, Fla. — Jan Bulis and Doug Gilmour scored 38 seconds apart in the third period to lead Montreal past Florida.

Bulis scored the go-ahead goal with 4:49 left. Oleg Petrov also scored for Montreal and Jose Theodore stopped 31 saves as the Canadiens broke a five-game road losing streak.

Roberto Luongo had a shutout streak of 144 minutes, 51 seconds broken.

Wild 2, Mighty Ducks 1 (OT)

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Nick Schultz scored the tying goal midway through the third period and Antti Laaksonen won it 2:53 into overtime as Minnesota rallied to win.

Dwayne Roloson made 30 saves in his club-record eighth straight appearance.

Petr Sykora scored for Anaheim in the first period.

Blue Jackets 5, Blackhawks 1

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Sean Pronger, David Vyborny and Rick Nash scored first-period goals and Marc Denis had 37 saves for Columbus.

Ray Whitney and Grant Marshall each had a goal and an assist and Mike Sillinger had two assists as the Blue Jackets snapped a three-game losing streak and handed Chicago its fourth consecutive road loss.

Blues 5, Hurricanes 3

RALEIGH, N.C. — Scott Mellanby and Al MacInnis scored in the opening 9½ minutes as St. Louis handed Carolina a franchise-record seventh straight home loss.

The victory moved the Blues past Detroit atop the Central Division.

Carolina, the defending Eastern Conference champions, fell to 1-10-1 in their past 13.

St. Louis took a 3-0 lead 27 minutes in but Ron Francis, Rod Brind'Amour and Jeff O'Neill scored in a 7½-minute span to pull Carolina to 4-3 with 4:33 left.

Mellanby scored an empty-net goal with 16.5 seconds left.

Lightning 6, Senators 2

TAMPA, Fla. — Vaclav Prospal had a goal and three assists as Tampa Bay snapped Ottawa's five-game winning streak.

Martin St. Louis added a goal and two assists for Tampa Bay, which ended an 11-game winless streak against the Senators (0-10-1). The Lightning won for just the second time in 10 games (2-6-1-1).

Marian Hossa and Magnus Arvedson scored for Ottawa, 25-5-4-1 in its past 35 games.

Coyotes 3, Sharks 1

PHOENIX — Zac Bierk made 26 saves for his first victory in nearly two years and Daniel Briere scored twice to lead Phoenix.

Bierk, who started the season in the AHL, is 1-3-1 in six appearances for Phoenix. His last NHL victory was March 30, 2000, with Tampa Bay.

Jeff Taffe also scored for Phoenix, which snapped a six-game winless streak (0-4-1-1).

Stars 1, Avalanche 1

DENVER — Jere Lehtinen scored in the second period and Marty Turco stopped 34 shots as Dallas extended its unbeaten streak to 11 games.

Dallas' streak (8-0-3) is its longest since a 13-game run from March 13 to April 7, 2001. It also ties the fourth-longest streak in team history.

Colorado ended a four-game losing streak at home on the night Patrick Roy became the first NHL goalie to play 1,000 games.

From The Associated Press

Scores/standings

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	28	12	.700	—
Boston	24	17	.585	4½
Philadelphia	21	20	.512	7½
Washington	21	20	.512	7½
Orlando	21	21	.500	8
New York	16	23	.410	11½
Miami	14	27	.341	14½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	29	12	.707	—
Detroit	27	13	.675	1½
New Orleans	22	20	.524	7½
Milwaukee	19	21	.475	9½
Chicago	15	26	.366	14
Atlanta	14	27	.341	15
Toronto	10	32	.238	19½
Cleveland	8	34	.190	21½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	31	8	.795	—
San Antonio	26	14	.650	5½
Utah	25	15	.625	6½
Houston	23	16	.590	8
Minnesota	23	18	.561	9
Memphis	12	28	.300	19½
Denver	10	30	.250	21½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	30	11	.732	—
Portland	24	15	.615	5
Phoenix	25	17	.595	5½
L.A. Lakers	19	21	.475	10½
Seattle	18	21	.462	11
Golden State	17	23	.425	12½
L.A. Clippers	15	25	.375	14½

Monday's games

Chicago 115, Atlanta 102
Washington 89, Denver 74
New York 72, Miami 65
Detroit 88, Indiana 78
New Orleans 114, Phoenix 102
Sacramento 102, Golden State 80
San Antonio 87, Houston 82
Portland 99, Memphis 87
Minnesota 89, Toronto 81
Boston 100, Philadelphia 99
Utah 106, New Jersey 103, OT
L.A. Lakers 96, L.A. Clippers 92

Men's basketball AP Top 25 Fared

Monday

1. Arizona (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona State, Wednesday.
2. Pittsburgh (14-1) did not play. Next: vs. Georgetown, Saturday.
3. Duke (12-1) did not play. Next: at N.C. State, Wednesday.
4. Texas (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 21 Missouri, Saturday.
5. Florida (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Wednesday.
6. Kansas (13-3) did not play. Next: at Colorado, Wednesday.
7. Oklahoma (12-3) beat Texas Tech 69-64, OT. Next: at Baylor, Saturday.
8. Kentucky (13-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 24 Auburn, Wednesday.
9. Louisville (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. DePaul, Wednesday.
10. Creighton (16-1) beat Illinois State 95-82. Next: at Evansville, Thursday.
11. Connecticut (11-3) lost to Miami 77-76. Next: vs. Villanova, Saturday.
12. Maryland (10-4) did not play. Next: at North Carolina, Wednesday.
13. Oklahoma State (14-1) did not play. Next: at Baylor, Tuesday.

14. Indiana (13-3) did not play. Next: vs. Ohio State, Tuesday.

15. Alabama (12-3) did not play. Next: at Mississippi, Tuesday.

16. Notre Dame (14-3) did not play. Next: at Providence, Tuesday.

17. Wake Forest (12-1) did not play. Next: at Virginia, Thursday.

18. Illinois (12-3) did not play. Next: vs. Purdue, Wednesday.

19. Georgia (10-4) did not play. Next: vs. Tennessee, Wednesday.

20. Marquette (12-3) did not play. Next: vs. DePaul, Saturday.

21. Missouri (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. Iowa State, Tuesday.

22. Mississippi State (10-4) did not play. Next: vs. South Carolina, Wednesday.

23. Oregon (12-4) did not play. Next: vs. Washington, Thursday.

24. Auburn (15-2) did not play. Next: at No. 8 Kentucky, Wednesday.

25. California (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. Southern California, Thursday.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	26	11	8	1	61	117	98
New Jersey	27	12	3	3	60	115	88
N.Y. Islanders	21	18	5	2	49	131	135
Pittsburgh	20	19	3	5	48	129	137
N.Y. Rangers	19	23	6	1	45	122	147

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	30	11	5	1	66	158	103
Toronto	25	17	4	1	55	135	116
Boston	23	18	5	1	52	143	128
Montreal	19	19	5	5	48	127	142
Buffalo	14	23	6	2	36	100	119

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	21	18	6	3	51	134	133
Tampa Bay	19	18	6	4	48	131	137
Florida	14	16	9	8	45	108	139
Carolina	16	22	6	4	42	104	132
Atlanta	14	26	2	4	34	117	168

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	26	13	5	4	61	154	117
Detroit	26	13	7	1	60	138	114
Chicago	21	16	8	3	53	114	113
Columbus	18	23	4	2	42	136	147
Nashville	14	20	8	4	40	101	124

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	28	14	5	0	61	149	122
Minnesota	24	16	7	1	56	120	104
Edmonton	22	15	5	6	55	133	128
Colorado	17	14	10	5	49	130	122
Calgary	16	22	7	3	42	103	131

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	26	10	11	1	64	147	95
Anaheim	19	17	7	4	49	112	115
Los Angeles	18	20	4	4	44	116	129
Phoenix	16	20	7	4	43	112	132
San Jose	16	20	6	4	42	120	141

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

Monday's games

Washington 3, Boston 3, tie
Minnesota 2, Anaheim 1, OT
Montreal 3, Florida 2
St. Louis 5, Carolina 3
Columbus 5, Chicago 1
Tampa Bay 6, Ottawa 2
Dallas 1, Colorado 1, tie
Phoenix 3, San Jose 1
Calgary 4, Edmonton 3

From The Associated Press

NBA continued

Continued from Page 9

Jason Kidd finished with 33 points and 13 rebounds, but also had 10 of the Nets' 21 turnovers. Richard Jefferson added 18 points for New Jersey.

Matt Harpring scored 23 and Malone had 11 rebounds for the Jazz, who went 6-for-8 from the free-throw line in overtime.

Lakers 96, Clippers 92

LOS ANGELES — Shaquille O'Neal had 32 points and 15 rebounds, and Kobe Bryant added 26 points and 11 assists as Los Angeles Lakers beat the Clip-

pers to claim their sixth successive home game.

Phil Jackson earned his 200th victory as Lakers coach in his 286th game, the quickest to do so in franchise history.

Neither team led by more than six points in a game that wasn't decided until the final two minutes. Even then, the Clippers had a late chance to win when the Lakers' Robert Horry turned the ball over and the Clippers trailed by two. But Corey Maggette was called for an offensive foul and Bryant made both free throws to seal the victory.

Andre Miller led five Clippers in double figures with 20 points.

From The Associated Press